

North of the Danforth Research Project

Childcare, Children's Programs, and Youth Programs

THE NODA ("NORTH OF DANFORTH")

RESEARCH PROJECT

- South Riverdale Community Health Centre, Massey Centre for Women, and WoodGreen Community Services spoke to residents in the Pape Village / Broadview North area to learn what types of health and social services are needed in the community.
- Residents spoke about their needs for primary healthcare and dentistry, childcare, child and youth programs, public space for community-building, financial supports, and food and nutrition programs.

CHILDCARE

- It is extremely difficult for parents in the neighbourhood to find childcare that is affordable, fits with parents' work schedules, is conveniently located, and has available spaces. This is a major source of stress for families.
- Though most families in NODA are eligible for a City of Toronto childcare subsidy, the waitlist is very long.
- Parents would benefit from short-term childcare services, so that they could access their own health and social services.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- The East York Community Centre is the main location for children's services, because the prices are lower than most and it is very conveniently located. However, their programs are often unavailable, because they are over capacity.
- Many people did not know about the City of Toronto's Welcome Policy, which allows low-income people to

join many Community Centre programs for free.

- Ontario Early Years programs for adults with children 0-6 at The Massey Centre for Women and Family Resource Programs and Ontario Early Years programs at East York East Toronto Family Resources location were liked by those that knew of them, but were considered to be too far for a drop-in program that is often full when they arrive.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Youth report that there are almost no youth-focused programs in the neighbourhood. They are interested in programs that foster community connections.
- East York Community Centre's exercise room appeals to young people in the area, but it is small and machines are not always well maintained.

Where Can I Find Child & Youth Programs?

CHILDCARE & CHILDCARE SUBSIDIES

- **Child Care Finder on the City of Toronto's Children's Services**
 - Go to <http://www.toronto.ca/children/childcare.htm> and click on "Child care locator". It will help find licensed childcare centres by location.
- **City of Toronto Childcare Subsidy**
 - Go to <http://www.toronto.ca/children/subsidy.htm> or call 311.
 - After you apply for a childcare subsidy, there will be a very long wait (often up to 1 year) before you receive

lower childcare fees. It is important to apply early.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- **Massey Centre for Women – Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC)**
 - 1102 Broadview Ave., south of Cosburn Ave..
 - <http://www.massey.ca/> or call (416) 425-3636
 - Many programs for children age 6 and under and parents/caregivers. All OEYC programs are free, but they often hit maximum capacity.
- **East York East Toronto – Family Resource Program**
 - 1108 Greenwood Ave., by Cosburn Ave.
 - <http://www.eyetfrp.ca/> or call (416) 686-3390 ext.9785.
 - Free drop-in programs and workshops for children age 6 and under and parents/caregivers. Parents are responsible for staying with the children.
- **Toronto Public Library – S. Walter Stewart Branch, Pape/Danforth Branch**
 - S. Walter Stewart: 170 Memorial Ave., by Coxwell Ave. & Mortimer Ave.
 - Pape/Danforth: 701 Pape Ave., by Danforth Ave.
 - <http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/> or call (416) 393-7131.
 - Both offer children's reading programs and early literacy space. Each branch also offers additional, unique programs. All programs are free.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

- **East York Strategy**

- Programs for sports and positive development run at Bethany Baptist Church (Pape Ave. & Cosburn Ave.) and other locations.

- (416) 425-9472

- **Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre – Boys and Girls Club**

- Several locations, including Wilkinson Public School (Danforth Ave. & Donlands Ave.).

- (416) 392-1750 ext. 300, and ask for information on Youth Programs

- Programs for ages 12-18. Fee of \$5 includes 1 year access to all Eastview programs.

- **The Massey Centre for Women**

1102 Broadview Ave., by Cosburn Ave.

<http://www.massey.ca/> or call (416) 425-6348

Supports for pregnant and parenting women aged 13-21, including short-term housing, health care, high school programs, and mentorship.

OTHER INFORMATION

- **City of Toronto's Welcome Policy**

- Low-income people can apply for a Welcome Policy membership, and join many Community Centre programs for free.

- This includes East York Community Centre (Pape Ave. & Cosburn Ave.).

- http://www.toronto.ca/parks/torontofun/welcome_policy.htm or call (416) 397-0330.

For a directory of over 20,000 community, social, health and government services, please visit www.211Toronto.ca.

The NODA research project's report is titled "From Neighbourhood to Community: Health and Social Supports North of the Danforth". The full report and executive summary can both be found on the websites of South Riverdale Community Health Centre, Massey Centre for Women, WoodGreen Community Services, and the Wellesley Institute.

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